

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2485

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## AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in planning and constructing a regional heritage center in Calais, Maine.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Saint Croix Island  
5       Heritage Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) Saint Croix Island is located in the Saint  
4 Croix River, a river that is the boundary between  
5 the State of Maine and Canada;

6 (2) the Island is the only international historic  
7 site in the National Park System;

8 (3) in 1604, French nobleman Pierre Dugua  
9 Sieur de Mons, accompanied by a courageous group  
10 of adventurers that included Samuel Champlain,  
11 landed on the Island and began the construction of  
12 a settlement;

13 (4) the French settlement on the Island in  
14 1604 and 1605 was the initial site of the first per-  
15 manent settlement in the New World, predating the  
16 English settlement of 1607 at Jamestown, Virginia;

17 (5) many people view the expedition that settled  
18 on the Island in 1604 as the beginning of the Aca-  
19 dian culture in North America;

20 (6) in October, 1998, the National Park Service  
21 completed a general management plan to manage  
22 and interpret the Saint Croix Island International  
23 Historic Site;

24 (7) the plan addresses a variety of management  
25 alternatives, and concludes that the best manage-  
26 ment strategy entails developing an interpretive trail

1 and ranger station at Red Beach, Maine, and a re-  
2 gional heritage center in downtown Calais, Maine, in  
3 cooperation with Federal, State, and local agencies;

4 (8) a 1982 memorandum of understanding,  
5 signed by the Department of the Interior and the  
6 Canadian Department for the Environment, outlines  
7 a cooperative program to commemorate the inter-  
8 national heritage of the Saint Croix Island site and  
9 specifically to prepare for the 400th anniversary of  
10 the settlement in 2004; and

11 (9) only 4 years remain before the 400th anni-  
12 versary of the settlement at Saint Croix Island, an  
13 occasion that should be appropriately commemo-  
14 rated.

15 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to direct  
16 the Secretary of the Interior to take all necessary and ap-  
17 propriate steps to work with Federal, State, and local  
18 agencies, historical societies, and nonprofit organizations  
19 to facilitate the development of a regional heritage center  
20 in downtown Calais, Maine before the 400th anniversary  
21 of the settlement of Saint Croix Island.

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

1 (1) ISLAND.—The term “Island” means Saint  
 2 Croix Island, located in the Saint Croix River, be-  
 3 tween Canada and the State of Maine.

4 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
 5 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-  
 6 rector of the National Park Service.

7 **SEC. 4. SAINT CROIX ISLAND REGIONAL HERITAGE CEN-**  
 8 **TER.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide as-  
 10 sistance in planning, constructing, and operating a re-  
 11 gional heritage center in downtown Calais, Maine, to fa-  
 12 cilitate the management and interpretation of the Saint  
 13 Croix Island International Historic Site.

14 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—To carry out sub-  
 15 section (a), in administering the Saint Croix Island Inter-  
 16 national Historic Site, the Secretary may enter into coop-  
 17 erative agreements under appropriate terms and condi-  
 18 tions with other Federal agencies, State and local agencies  
 19 and nonprofit organizations—

20 (1) to provide exhibits, interpretive services (in-  
 21 cluding employing individuals to provide such serv-  
 22 ices), and technical assistance;

23 (2) to conduct activities that facilitate the dis-  
 24 semination of information relating to the Saint Croix  
 25 Island International Historic Site;

1           (3) to provide financial assistance for the con-  
2           struction of the regional heritage center in exchange  
3           for space in the center that is sufficient to interpret  
4           the Saint Croix Island International Historic Site;  
5           and

6           (4) to assist with the operation and mainte-  
7           nance of the regional heritage center.

8   **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9           (a) DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
11           appropriated to carry out this Act (including the de-  
12           sign and construction of the regional heritage cen-  
13           ter) \$2,000,000.

14           (2) EXPENDITURE.—Paragraph (1) authorizes  
15           funds to be appropriated on the condition that any  
16           expenditure of those funds shall be matched on a  
17           dollar-for-dollar basis by funds from non-Federal  
18           sources.

19           (b) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—There are au-  
20           thorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary

- 1 to maintain and operate interpretive exhibits in the re-
- 2 gional heritage center.

Passed the Senate October 5 (legislative day, September 22), 2000.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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